



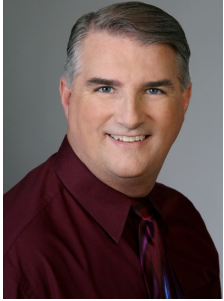
City of Westminster

NEWS AND NOTES

Volume Two, Issue 3c



LETTER FROM THE MAYOR



Dear Residents:

After suffering through several years of very slow construction activity, the City of Westminster is beginning to see some hopeful signs of recovery. The Shoppes of Meadow Creek will add three new businesses over the summer months: the Young School, a regional, private pre-school which is already under construction and is slated to open September 1 in time for the school year; Walgreen's Pharmacy and IHOP will begin construction soon and expect to be open by November. Another well-known restaurant chain is in the design phase to build a new facility at the former Lonestar Restaurant location.

Union Crossing, under the sponsorship of the Episcopal Housing Corporation, has four new homes for sale on Union Street. These homes will be ready for occupancy in August. More details about these homes can be found on page 2 of this newsletter.

The Common Council approved a number of capital improvement projects for implementation this coming fiscal year. The first of these—replacement of storm drains on East Green Street and Fitzhugh Avenue—is currently out for bids. A pre-bid conference was held in late July.

Using funds awarded by Program Open Space Community Parks and Playground Program, the City Recreation Department is requesting design specifications for the total replacement of the Bishop's Garth playground. In addition, City Park and Dutterers Park are benefitting from Project Open Space funds for handicap accessibility improvements.

The Maryland Energy Agency awarded the City \$160,000 in grant and no-interest loan funds to retrofit City-owned properties with new lighting fixtures. City Hall, 56 W. Main Street, the Family Center, Public Works facility, Police Department, Wastewater Treatment Plant, and Longwell and Westminster Square parking garages will be included in this retrofit project. With over 500 fixtures replaced, the City will achieve significant savings in future energy bills and will also be eligible to receive substantial rebates from BGE for installing the energy-efficient fixtures.

And, since it is never too soon to start planning, we have begun our preparations for the second annual ELECTRIC PARADE to light up the sky in Westminster on November 27th. I hope you are getting your electric float ready—the competition for best float will be cut-throat this year! Go to the City's website at www.westminstermd.gov for your application and further details.

Sincerely,
Kevin R. Utz
Mayor

Several of our water system customers have asked about the cost of mailing this newsletter. When the new automated utility billing system was implemented, the bills were printed on a full page, rather than the post card. This necessitated the mailing of the bill in an envelope. However, the newsletter, with the bill, is mailed for the cost of one stamp, so there is no additional cost associated with the mailing of the newsletter. Thank you for sharing your comments.

New Features at Westminster City Park!



Let's Play! The Westminster City Department of Recreation and Parks announces the completion of two new features in the City Park West area: a **NEW** Westminster Lions Club playground and the

David S. Babylon, Jr., Community Building.

The playground is located behind the Westminster Family Fitness Center building on 11 Longwell Ave. The equipment is geared for children ages 1-10. Families will be able to watch their older children play ball, while keeping a close eye on their younger children. The installment of ADA-compliant playground equipment was completed by the Emmitsburg-based company, Playground Specialist, Inc. The final touches were completed this past week, which included a rubberized safety surface. The Westminster Lions Club helped to fund the new playground through a generous donation of \$14,200, in addition to other grant money.



The David S. Babylon, Jr. Community Building, also located in City Park, will serve Westminster Optimist, Westminster Fallfest Inc., and many other non-profit organizations throughout the year. Funding for this project was acquired mainly through Program Open Space and private donations.

For more information on this and other playgrounds or facilities in the Westminster City limits visit our website www.westminstermd.gov or call 410-857-9072.

Union Crossing Homes Ready For Sale!



Union Crossing is the result of a partnership between local, county and state governments, with non-profit Episcopal Housing Corporation being the lead contractor.

Union Crossing is located near the intersection of Union Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, adjacent to McDaniel College.

The townhouses were built utilizing modular construction designed to match the existing architecture and fabric of the neighborhood. The homes are 1,450 square feet with three bedrooms, one and a half bathrooms, and a full, unfinished basement. The homes are equipped with Energy Star appliances and each home has a covered front porch, back yard and two dedicated parking spaces. The homes will be sold to low to moderate-income families.

(see next column)

(continued...)

Phase I of the project consists of the four townhomes on Union Street which were shipped to Westminster on flatbed tractor trailers. The units were then craned and set onto prepared foundations. The site contractor will finish off the interior and exterior of the homes over the next 6-8 weeks with move-in beginning in late August. Once Phase I is complete the remaining five units, Phase II, will begin.

The estimated project cost is \$2.9 million. The project received \$300,000 in State of Maryland HOME funds and \$800,000 from Community Development Block Grant funds. An EmPOWER Clean Energy grant from the Maryland Department of Energy is being used for the energy efficiency upgrades. Episcopal Housing Corporation also received a commitment for a construction loan through The Reinvestment Fund, which will be re-paid through sales proceeds.



The home sales prices will range from \$207,900 to \$209,900, with a soft second mortgage in the amount of \$33,333 provided by the HOME funds. This subsidy will reduce the purchase price to \$174,600 - \$176,000, which is affordable to households at or below 80 percent of area median income.

The new homes will complement revitalization work that has been underway in the community for the past seven years. This revitalization has included façade improvements and the recently completed streetscape improvements. These projects were funded with Maryland State Community Legacy grants and Maple Street Program grant funds.

For information on purchasing one of these homes, contact Sandy Anderson in the Administrative Offices building at 56 West Main Street, or by calling 410-751-5505 or by email at sanderson@westgov.com.

Antiques Appraisal Day!

The **Historical Society of Carroll County** hosts the 10th annual Antiques Appraisal Day on Saturday, September 11, 2010. The day will feature 10 appraisers in varying disciplines providing verbal estimates of value on antiques, furniture, fine art and collectibles.

The event will be held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Carroll Post #31, American Legion, at the corner of Sycamore and Green Streets in Westminster.

Says this year's chair, Lynette Brewer: "We have often been requested to invite appraisers with expertise in specific areas... We are excited to be celebrating our 10th anniversary by offering specialists in the following areas: quilts and coverlets, dolls and toys, clocks and watches, coins, silver and jewelry."

New Services for City Residents

Streamlined Bulk Waste Removal

As of July 1, 2010, City residents began receiving the benefits of a new, more efficient bulk waste removal system. With the implementation of the new service, residents will now enjoy a standard schedule **WITHOUT THE NEED TO CALL FOR A PICK-UP**. This new schedule will provide the time needed for the City Street Department staff to attend to other service needs such as light repair and pothole patching.

Every other week, the entire city limits will have the following schedule, with the exception of weekly yard waste pick up:

Monday -	Brush Pick-Up
Tuesday -	Metal Pick-Up
Thursday -	Bulk* Trash Pick-Up East of MD 31
Friday -	Bulk* Trash Pick-Up West of MD 31

** Bulk service includes non-hazardous waste and non-household trash*

All bulk waste will be collected from residences throughout the city limits on this every-other-week schedule. YARD WASTE will continue to be picked up every week on Wednesdays. Regular trash service provided by Ecology Services will remain the same. A complete schedule of pickup dates can be found on the City website at www.westminstermd.gov.

Client Services Request Form On The Web

Also, Westminster City residents are able to report maintenance issues to City officials via a new Client Services Request System on the City's website. **Residents may continue to call 410-848-9000 during normal business hours with any request for service, or citizens can go to the City's website www.westminstermd.gov and complete the simple request for service form to report a code violation, darkened streetlight or a pothole in need of repair at any time.** Other examples of problems which could be reported might include signage problems, street issues, water and sewer line problems, etc. For those residents who would like to receive a follow-up status report, giving an email address will ensure they receive updates on the resolution of the problem.

With this new reporting system in place, City officials will be able to address maintenance requests quickly and more efficiently than before, and citizens can receive feedback on the status of their request. Citizens are encouraged to utilize the web request system in order to streamline the repair process. Please visit our website and click on the Clients Service Request Form and fill in the blanks. You can be assured your alertness will be addressed and appreciated.

Recreation & Parks Department Summer Programs

Summer Camps Available!

Day Camp is held at Westminster City Park and is designed for children 6-12 years. Children will have loads of fun playing games and sports, making crafts, going on field trips and swimming at the Westminster Municipal Pool.

We offer camp during all full weeks that Carroll County Schools are out of session for the summer. The cost is \$115 per week. AM and PM care is also available at an additional charge.

Tot Camp – Now offering 8 weeks!

Tot Camp is held at the Community Building at the Westminster Municipal Pool and is designed for children ages 3- 5, who must be potty trained. Camp is 9-11:30am and costs \$60 per week.

Spaces Are Filling Fast,
So Sign Up Now!

Learn the Fundamentals of Basketball then Play Games.

Five weeks of fundamentals and drills and five weeks of games. The league is for boys and girls ages 5-13. Fundamentals and games will take place on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6:30-8pm. Fee is \$30. Go to [www.hoopeducation.com/ carroll_county](http://www.hoopeducation.com/carroll_county) or email shane@hoopeducation.com.



Westminster Municipal Pool

The Westminster Municipal Pool is open daily through Labor Day. The pool is located at 325 Royer Road and is open to the public. Pool applications are still being accepted.

2010 member fees are:

CITY RESIDENTS: \$200/Family membership and \$128/Individual membership

COUNTY RESIDENTS: \$260/Family membership and \$146/Individual membership.

Call for more information: 410-857-5633.

Westminster Family Center

The Westminster Family Fitness Center is a full service Health and Wellness Center for all ages! Features include many weight machines and free weight options, cardio equipment, aerobics classes, locker rooms and showers, and a game room. It is open 7 days a week, and memberships and daily guest fees apply. Call for rates or to ask about renting the gymnasium: 410-751-5501. Child supervision is available.

Hours

Monday-Thursday-5:30am to 10pm
Friday- 5:30am to 9pm
Saturday-8am to 5pm
Sunday-12pm to 5pm

Downtown Westminster Farmer's Market

Located on the Conaway Parking Lot at the corner of Railroad Avenue (MD27) and Emerald Hill Lane, the Downtown Westminster Farmers Market is the oldest "Producer Only" open air market operating in Carroll County. Vendor offerings this year include fresh vegetables of all kinds, fruits, eggs, honey, salsa, home-made baked goods, herb & vegetable plants, annuals & perennials, cut flowers, wool, hand-made soap products, organically-raised meats and certified organic produce.



The Farmer's Market is open from 8am until noon on Saturdays, from the last Saturday in May until the Saturday before Thanksgiving in November. It is held rain or shine. The market site is handicap accessible, with ample free parking. Check out what is happening at the Farmer's Market by going to www.westminstermd.gov, or call 410-848-5294.

Carroll Arts Center Events: August

**Wednesday, August 4,
10:30am & 1:30pm:** *Dave Thomen of Mr. D's Magic.*

Back by popular demand, this show is great for families, daycare groups, and summer campers.

Thomen is an accomplished magician whose show combines comedy and magic, illusions choreographed to lively music. He inspires playful audience participation and interaction. His innovative routines and classic magic will fascinate audience members of all ages. Tickets are \$5 for adults and \$3 for CCAC Members, Students and Seniors.



FREE Kids Movies! Every Tuesday This Summer

Following the success of last year's free movies, the Carroll Arts Center will once again be partnering with the downtown businesses in Westminster to present free family movies every Tuesday evening at 7pm throughout the summer. No advance tickets will be distributed, seating is first-come-first-served. Doors open at 6:30pm and concession sales will benefit the Art's Council scholarship fund.

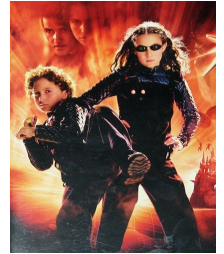
The remaining films are:

August 3
Pebble & the Penguin
1994, G, 74 mins.

Sponsored by: Coffee Music

August 10
Spy Kids
2001, PG, 88 mins.

Sponsored by: Cecelia's Bridals



Friday, August 13, 7:30pm: FLICC presents *Body Heat*, 1981, R, 118 min. The film follows an unhappily married socialite (Kathleen Turner) who is in the midst of a steamy affair with a dimwitted lawyer (William Hurt).

She convinces the lawyer to kill her husband as the tale of complicity and sexual obsession unfolds. The powerful story is told with a masterful flair for dialogue and subtle characters. The movie, directed by Lawrence Kasdan, became an iconic symbol of the 1980's and made stars out of Hurt and Turner. Tickets are \$6 for adults and \$5 for CCAC Members, Students and Seniors.



Synopses of these movies can be found on the Carroll County Arts Council website at www.carrollcountyartscouncil.org.

For more information on these movies or the event, contact the Carroll Arts Center at 410-848-7272.

Carroll Arts Center Gallery—Still Open!

Rejected to Perfected: Fine Art from Recyclables: June 10—Aug 6. The Carroll Arts Center is pleased to jump on the "go-green" bandwagon for its next exhibit.

Western Civilizations' throw-away society had its beginnings in the Italian Renaissance when Humanist writers espoused facts that Mother Nature would constantly replenish her resources. The early 20th century Italian Futurist painter, Marinetti, wrote a manifest to the movement that applauded industrial pollution as proof that mankind was moving forward in a positive direction. Enter the 21st century and industrialized nations are looking back, not to the Italian Renaissance or industry but to those countries, while appearing primitive, have been practicing sustainable living. "Rejected to Perfected" will feature artists whose canvas and media are not purchased at the art store, whose pigment will not pollute water sources but bring awareness to the beauty and functionality that can be found in the landfill, recycle bins and dumpsters. These creative artists think out of the box. "Renew-Reuse-Recycle" is their artistic credo. In addition, there will be a few other twists such as displaying the incredible bottle cap sculpture of "Starry Night" on loan from Finksburg Public Library, and we will be selling copies of "Do Martians Recycle" by Sharon Gribbon-Lindemon. The show has been generously sponsored by The Maryland Sustainable Living Fair.



Saturday, August 14, 7:30pm: *The Annapolis Bluegrass Coalition*, one of the mid-Atlantic's hardest working bands, their musical roots are deeply planted in the traditional styles and their performances thrill audiences with their unique blend and energy.

The group is lead by singer Roger Green, who also plays guitar and writes much of the band's original material. He has been playing since he was a child and is influenced by Reno & Smiley, Flatt & Scruggs, and the Country Gentlemen. Dan Kimball sings tenor and plays the mandolin and has played with such groups as Rat Grass, Appalachian Reign and Southgate. Harmony vocals and fiddle are added by Sue "Raines" Tice who began her musical career in upstate New York. She was an original member of the 1970s Buffalo Gals who are credited with being the first all female bluegrass band. She also plays piano and old timey banjo. Bob Tice is the banjo player and is well known as a banjo teacher in the Washington DC/Baltimore area. He has also played with Bottom Country Grass and Patent Pending. Jim Duvall completes the group on bass fiddle. His musical background goes back more than 30 years and includes clarinet, electric guitar in a Motown band called Louie & the Uptights. Tickets are \$13 for adults and \$10 for CCAC Members, Students & Seniors.



For more information on any of these events, contact the Carroll Arts Center at 410-848-7272 or visit www.CarrollCountyArtsCouncil.org